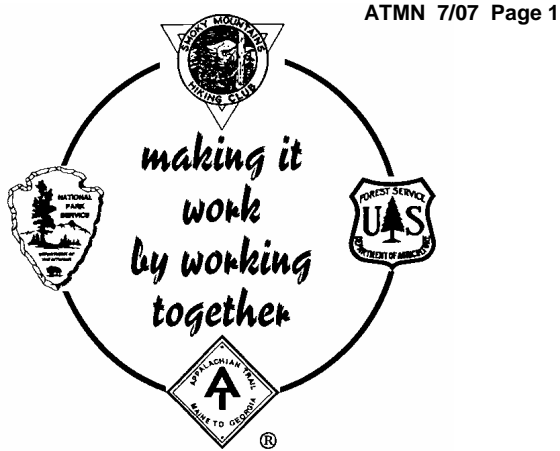


## Appalachian Trail Maintainers News

*Remote for detachment; Narrow for chosen company; Winding for leisure;  
Lonely for contemplation;  
It beckons not merely north and south, but upward to the body, mind and  
soul of man...Harold Allen*



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**July 2007**

## Work Trip July 1

The July Work Trip is to be individual Section Leaders and crew members cutting back vegetation on their own sections. Remember that the use of motorized weed cutting equipment is not allowed in the Park. Also, Section Leaders who would like one or more crew members to go along may send an E-mail to [ExtraCrewList@smhclub.org](mailto:ExtraCrewList@smhclub.org) asking for replies. There are many people on that list who would like to assist on a crew.

## National Trails Day

The Friends of the Smokies in cooperation with Smoky Mountains Hiking Club and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy celebrated National Trails Day for the 11<sup>th</sup> time. On this day 145 workers spent some 870 hours working on the trail and more than 580 hours getting there. One was from Vermont, two from Mississippi, several from Ohio and Oklahoma, and four paratroopers came from Fort Campbell, KY. Another 12 workers assisted with registration and the picnic. Repairs and upgrades were made and general maintenance was performed from Charlies Bunion to Welch Ridge, a distance of about 16 miles. Over 100 projects were

completed, including 80 flagged projects and many others that had been planned in advance or were added during the day. The workers enjoyed coffee, juice, and donuts at Sugarlands before starting work, and an après work picnic and trail reports (also known as the Liars' Contest) with numerous door prizes at the Metcalf Bottoms picnic shelter. We are thankful to our sponsors for this event: TVA, Citizens National Bank, The Happy Hiker, Food City, Service Coffee Co., Stop N Save, Little River Trading Co., Blue Ridge Mountain Sports, and Earth Traverse.

## Otters

The AT Maintainers Committee recently nominated the Maryville Housing Authority's OTTERS program for the 2007 Tennessee Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award in the "Environmental and Education Outreach" category. Quoting from the nomination: "OTTERS on the Appalachian Trail is a partnership between the Maryville Housing Authority OTTERS program and the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club. The goal of the partnership is to acquaint inner-city and minority youths with the Appalachian Trail and Great Smoky Mountains National Park and to educate them regarding the trail's environment, its conservation, and the recreational opportunities it affords. Simultaneously, the OTTERS provide a welcome boost to the hiking club's efforts to maintain many miles of the Appalachian Trail... Both the club and the OTTERS have continued the partnership that already has been so beneficial to conservation efforts along the Appalachian Trail in Tennessee. Perhaps the greatest measure of the partnership's success is the width of the smiles on the OTTERS' faces as they learn new skills, make new friends and see the positive impact that their efforts can have on the environment."

Unfortunately, the OTTERS did not win this year. However, James H. Fyke, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation wrote, "This was the most competitive stewardship awards process in the history of our twenty-one year program... Although the OTTERS on the Appalachian Trail - National Trails Day 2006 Project was not selected as a winner this year, I would like to express my appreciation for the time and dedication that the Maryville Housing Authority has given to protecting Tennessee's environment."

We appreciate Terry Elmore and the OTTERS!

## A.T. Work

**4/21/07 Jim Quick, Lynda Bryan, Kathleen Kitzmiller, Edward O'Brien, Barbara O'Brien, and Mindy Fawver** cleared blowdowns, cleaned waterbars, and clipped vegetation between Collins Gap and Clingmans Dome .

**5/15/07 Phyllis Henry , Mac McNutt, Stew Taylor, and George Minnigh** bagged mulch for **Ronnie Boone** of Smoky Mtn Trail Riders to haul to Spence Field.

**5/19/07 Dick Ketelle** - flagged trail work projects between Icewater spring and Charlies Bunion. Also, visited Mt. Collins to check on privy data logger.

**5/19/07 Phyllis Henry, Mac McNutt, Terry Elmore, and two Otters** walked north from Newfound Gap. They marked projects for NTD and installed one step .

**5/19/07 Steve Larbee and Andy Piercy** cut weeds and cleaned 41 waterbars to Rocky Top from Spence. It was a fantastic day, 75 degrees with a slight breeze and beautiful sunny weather. It was a perfect day! And we got a little work accomplished.

**5/20/07 Dick Ketelle** - Mount Collins Privy - Re-programmed privy data logger.

**5/20/07 Ed Peck** cleared water bars from Goshen Prong Tr to Double Spr Gap shelter, picked up inside and around shelter and at water sources on both sides of AT, and observed bucket at privy was absolutely full.

**5/20/07 Mark Shipley** cleaned waterbars and used a fire rake to clear early blackberry bush growth from Cosby Knob Top to Camel Gap. He also cleaned around Cosby shelter and privy.

**5/23/07 Phyllis Henry, Ed Peck, Wayne Williams and Jerry Troxler** walked from Fork Ridge to Newfound Gap. They cleaned waterbars, filled in behind steps and put dirt on one of the turnpikes from Fork Ridge to Spruce Fir. They checked out the sections that Jerry Troxler and Wayne Williams would work on NTD and looked for building materials.

**5/31/07 Doris Gove** hiked Collins Gap to Clingmans Dome to flag projects and move locust logs in preparation for trails day.

**5/31/07 Stew Taylor and Phyllis Henry** walked from Newfound gap to Charlies Bunion to scout the section assigned to Stew for NTD to look for material to put in steps and assess for tools.

**6/1/07 Jim Quick, Mac McNutt, Terry Elmore, Coy, Dick Ketelle, Philip Royer, Wayne Williams, Jerry Troxler, Stew Taylor, Ed Peck and Wes Hayes** sharpened tools at the MacNutt tool shed in preparation for Trails Day.

**6/3/07 Pam Reddoch** cut back blackberries and greenbriar from Stecoah Gap to Brown Fork shelter .

**6/7/07 Doris Gove** walked from Collins Gap to Clingmans dome to see how the new steps and water bars looked after at least one rain. They looked great, and all were firmly in place and seemed to be doing the jobs perfectly. One observation: the men on the Collins-to-Clingmans NTD team put in a few more steps per person, but the women camouflaged theirs better.

**6/8-12/07 Wayne Williams** cleaned the shelter and privy at Double Springs, filled the mulch bucket, and cut out part of a blowdown. "I did a little work on the way to Silers, met up with the **SWEAT** crew and worked with them Sat., Sun., and Mon. We worked between Silers Bald and Miry Ridge Trail. All the waterbars are cleaned. The trail has been brushed that whole distance and from Silers to Welch Ridge. Helped them put in many steps and waterbars and obtained material for them. On Tues. I walked out down Miry Ridge and Jakes Creek to Elkmont."

**6/12/07 Ed Peck** cut weeds and briars along trail and in front of shelter between Goshen Prong Trail and Jenkins Knob.

**6/13/07 Lucinda Turbeville, Jim Quick, Cheryl Quinn, Nancy Biddle, Elfie Beall, Nan Woodbury, Paul Detloff, Bob Prince, Ron Brandenburg, and Ron Shrieves** divided into two teams to cut grass and clean waterbars along the trail between Mt. Collins shelter to Collins Gap, meeting each other at mid point. Bob and Nan also cleaned Mt. Collins shelter. The grass was tall and tough but we were tougher and meaner. The turk's cap lilies are not yet blooming. The day was cool and clear. One visitor expected a hike this day and we showed him the glory of trail work instead. He was happy.

Thank you to the ATMC for sharpening the swing blades and other tools. This made the job much easier.

**6/14/07 Ray Payne and Bob Lochbaum** blazed the AT from Clingmans to Indian Gap.